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February 22, 1991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JOHNSON TO RETIRE

CHARLESTON, IL--James E. Johnson, Eastern Illinois University's Assistant Dean of Student Personnel Services for twenty-one years, will begin administrative leave March 1 and retire Sept. 1.

Johnson came to Eastern in 1970 from New York City where he taught junior and senior high school. When asked why he choose Eastern, Johnson said, "I graduated from Eastern, and what person doesn't want to return to their Alma Mater?"

Since returning to Eastern, he has been responsible for various areas concerning parking, student absences and withdrawals, and student, faculty and civil service identification cards. He has also served as supervisor of Eastern's International Student Services office and the Afro-American Cultural Center.

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An active member of the Eastern community, he has been a member of Eastern's Parking Appeals Committee and the Afro-American Studies Committee. In addition, he has served as president of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and Eastern's Alumni Association and is a member of the Charleston Kiwanis Club.

During his 21 years at Eastern, he has served more than 400,000 students, and Johnson said, for him, the students have always come first. He adds, "Working at Eastern is something that I have especially enjoyed. I've liked working with the faculty and staff, but mostly the students."

Serving with four of the University's six presidents (Quincy V. Doudna, Gilbert C. Fite, Daniel E. Marvin, and Stanley G. Rives), Johnson has watched the physical appearance of the campus change significantly, including the addition of such new buildings as the Tarble Arts Center and Lumpkin Hall, but said that students are the one thing that never change. "There's always been a good group of students at Eastern," he adds.

Although retiring, he plans to help out with the Boy's State Track Meet at Eastern in the spring. He feels that it is important to get involved with student activities in order to show support of not only the school, but also the students.

Students, faculty, and staff have always found Jim most helpful said his supervisor, Glenn D. Williams, Eastern Vice President for Student Affairs. "We all wish Jim the best in his retirement, his friendly smile and 'can-do' attitude will be missed generally and I will miss him personally--very much."

Johnson said that he will miss the students and the many friends he has made, but believes the time has come for somebody else to take over. He plans to relax and spend time with his grandchildren and adds, "I'm going to spend a lot of my time on the golf course and at Eastern's golf outings."